

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 261107Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9099
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6112

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CH, UR
SUBJ: SOVIETS ATTACK PRC'S PERSIAN GULF POLICY

1. RADIO MOSCOW, IN PERSIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCAST MONITORED HERE ON JUNE 24, LAUNCHED SHARP ATTACK ON THE PRC'S POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE PROPOSED VISIT OF CHINESE PREMIER HUA KUO FENG TO IRAN. BROADCAST, WHICH WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN IRANIAN PRESS, ACCUSED CHINA OF "SOWING SEEDS OF ENMITY" BETWEEN THE PERSIAN GULF STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH RECENT VISITS OF SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS TO THESE COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY THE VISIT TO IRAN BY PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA (REFTEL). RADIO MOSCOW ACCUSED THE CHINESE OF FOLLOWING A STRONG ANTI-SOVIET POLICY AND CHARGED THAT HUANG CHARACTERIZED THE SOVIET UNION AS AN ENEMY OF THE WHOLE WORLD AND AS PREPARING FOR WAR. CONTINUING ITS ATTACKS ON THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER, RADIO MOSCOW ALLEGED THAT THE PRC SOUGHT IRANIAN HELP IN ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH OTHER PERSIAN GULF STATES BY ATTEMPTING TO CONVINCE THE GOI THAT THIS POLICY WAS NOT ONLY IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PRC BUT ALSO OF IRAN.

2. COMMENT: SOVIETS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN STUNG BY PRC
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DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN PERSIAN GULF REGION. BEAMING ANTI-CHINESE BROADCASTS TO IRAN, THEREBY PLAYING UP INTRA-COMMUNIST RIVALRY, WILL DO NOTHING TO SOOTHE JANGLED NERVES WITHIN GOI. LEADERSHIP PRECEPTION OF SOVIET THREAT TO REGION IS ALREADY HIGH AND IS INCREASINGLY REFLECTED AT PRESENT IN ANTI-SOVIET SLANT IN GOI PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRESS TREATMENT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT

SHAH HAS AGREED TO SECOND CHINESE APPLICATIONS FOR
ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES OF THE
GULF EVEN IF CHINESE ASKED FOR SUCH SUPPORT. WHILE SHAH
MAY FAVOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH RELATIONS (AS THEIR RECENT
ACCEPTANCE BY OMAN, A CLOSE FRIEND OF IRAN'S, WOULD
SUGGEST) HE IS CERTAINLY AWARE THAT IRAN'S OPEN PROMOTION
OF THEM WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE WITH MOST GULF
ARAB STATES.

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